

Remarks

1. Summary of Office Action

In the final Office Action mailed October 20, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,486,398 (hereinafter “McCulloch”). Further, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over a combination McCulloch and U.S. Patent No. 4,937,196 (hereinafter “Wrasidlo”).

2. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 5-7 are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of a rejected base claim and any intervening claims.

3. Status of Claims

Applicants have cancelled claim 7 and amended claim 1 to include the limitations of cancelled claim 7. Claim 4 has been amended to correct a minor error. Further, claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form, and new claims 42 and 43 (dependent from claim 5) have been added.

Pending are claims 1-6, 8, 42, and 43, of which claims 1 and 5 is independent and the remainder are dependent.

4. Response to Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 8 have been rejected. The rejections are respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been now amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 7. Further, allowable claim 5 has been rewritten in an independent form to include the subject matter of independent base claim 1. Each of claims 2-4, 6, 8, 42, and 43 now

depends from claim 1 or 5, and thus necessarily includes all of the limitations of claim 1 or 5.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are now allowable over the cited art.

5. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of those claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Joanna Skyles/

Joanna Skyles
Reg. No. 54,454

Temic Automotive of North America, Inc.
Patents and Licenses
21440 West Lake Cook Road
Deer Park, IL
Tel.: (847) 862-0274
Fax: (847) 862-8308